



FACT SHEET ON U.S. PEACE CORPS WORLDWIDE

The Peace Corps of the United States was first established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, when he challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in other countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the U.S. federal government devoted to world peace and friendship.

Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help people who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities. To date, more than 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have been invited by 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from HIV/AIDS education, information technology, and environmental conservation. In Ethiopia, Peace Corps currently works in the development sector of HIV/AIDS, environmental conservation and education.

The mission of the Peace Corps has three goals:

1. Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2. Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served.
3. Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of all Americans.

In 2007, the first group of health Volunteers arrived in Ethiopia following a request from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health for assistance by the Peace Corps to develop the capacity of hospitals, health centers, organizations and communities to plan, coordinate and deliver HIV/AIDS services. Peace Corps Health Volunteers support the Government of Ethiopia's strategy to create and strengthen community and family-centered HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support network models in the Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP regions. Volunteers are assigned to work with hospitals, health centers, non-governmental and community-based organizations to help build service networks, strengthen organizational capacity and referral systems, and to help expand and improve HIV/AIDS-related prevention, care and support interventions including services to orphans and vulnerable children.

In 2010, the first group of environment Volunteers arrived in Ethiopia following a request from the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development and the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority for assistance by the Peace Corps to improve the quality of life of communities living in the buffer zone of protected areas and to improve the management of natural resources. Peace Corps Environment Volunteers support the Government of Ethiopia's strategy to protect and promote better management of its natural resources in Amhara, Oromia and SNNP regions. Volunteers work side-by-side with Ethiopian counterparts to: improve the livelihood of communities residing in the buffer zone of protected areas; to improve the awareness of communities on conservation and natural resource management issues; to strengthen national parks and protected areas' operations; and to develop Ethiopia's ecotourism industry.

To build upon the work of the first environment group on December 16, 2011 the second group of Environment Volunteers will begin their important work in Ethiopia. This group will focus on three specific areas such as; environmental awareness; land rehabilitation through tree planting

and scaling up small scale gardens to improve household level food security.

In addition to working on capacity building, Volunteers also engage in cross-cultural exchange with their community members so as to promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of Ethiopians and similarly to learn about and share the richness of Ethiopian culture with Americans. Currently, there are approximately 132 Peace Corps Volunteers serving throughout Ethiopia

The Peace Corps is celebrating a 50-year legacy of service at home and abroad. Since 1961, more than 200,000 Volunteers have helped promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of the 139 countries where Volunteers have served. Peace Corps Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment.

#